



03500.015894

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

TAKAHARU KONDO, et al.

Application No.: 09/982,845

Filed: October 22, 2001

For: SILICON-BASED FILM
AND PHOTOVOLTAIC
ELEMENT

Examiner: S. A. Gebremariam

Group Art Unit: 2811

May 9, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 6,211,454 B1
Japan 11-274530
Japan 11-274539

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. Application, a copy of which is enclosed.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

May 9, 2003
(Date of Deposit)

Diamond E. Vadnais, Reg. No. 52,310

Name of Attorney for Applicant

Signature

Date of Signature

<u>APPLN. NO.</u>	<u>FILING DATE</u>	<u>INVENTOR</u>	<u>GROUP ART</u>	<u>ATTNY DOCKET NO.</u>
09/233,033	01/20/1999	M. Higashikawa	2811	03500.013261.

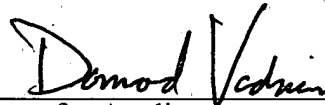
The co-pending application listed above is believed to be an English-language counterpart of Japan 11-274539; and U.S. 6,211,454 is believed to be an English-language counterpart of Japan 11-274530.

The concise explanation of relevance for the Japanese documents cited above is provided by their English-language counterparts and by the English-language abstracts included with the cited art. See MPEP § 609.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement accompanies a Request For Continued Examination (RCE), which has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of the Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to
be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 52,310

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200